

Emily M. Dean
August 2, 2000

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Order No. R1-2000-##*
ID No. 1B831200HUM

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

FOR

GARBERVILLE SANITARY DISTRICT

Humboldt County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, (hereinafter the Regional Water Board) finds that:

1. The Garberville Sanitary District (hereinafter discharger) owns and operates a municipal wastewater treatment facility and collection system to serve the community of Garberville. The discharger is operating under Waste Discharge Requirements (Order No. 88-126), adopted on September 28, 1988. Review of Order No. 88-126 identified the need to update waste discharge requirements.
2. The publicly owned treatment works (POTW) is located in Garberville, California, in Township 4 South of the Humboldt Baseline, Range 3 East of the Humboldt Meridian, in section 24 at approximately 44° 39' N latitude, 4° 32' E longitude. The waste consists of wastewater collected from the surrounding community. There are no industrial wastewater flows to the treatment facilities. The discharger is located within the South Fork of the Eel River watershed .
3. Treatment consists of three-oxidation ponds and chlorine disinfection. Disposal is via percolation ponds adjacent to the South Fork of the Eel River. The percolation ponds are located above the level of average wintertime flows. Design capacities are for an average dry weather flow of 60,000 gpd (gallons per day) and a peak wet weather flow of 300,000 gpd.

4. Wastewater currently enters the POTW through a pipeline suspended above the South Fork of the Eel River. This pipeline is approximately 35 years old, and the possibility of a pipe failure constitutes a significant discharge risk. Humboldt County Department of Public Works has plans to construct a new bridge across the South Fork of the Eel River in the vicinity of the aerial pipe. The new span, called the Bear Canyon Bridge, will support a new influent pipeline to the POTW. Additionally, the bridge will improve winter access to the POTW. Construction is scheduled to begin in June of 2000, and is estimated to take two years to complete.
5. The Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region includes water quality objectives, a prohibition against discharge to the Eel River and its tributaries during the period May 15 through September 30, and receiving water limitations.
6. The existing and potential beneficial uses of the South Fork of the Eel River include:
 - a. municipal and domestic supply
 - b. agricultural supply
 - c. industrial service supply
 - d. groundwater recharge
 - e. water contact recreation
 - f. non-contact water recreation
 - g. commercial and sport fishing
 - h. cold freshwater habitat
 - i. wildlife habitat
 - j. preservation of rare, threatened or endangered species
 - k. migration of aquatic organisms
 - l. spawning, reproduction, and/or early development of fish
 - m. aquaculture
7. Beneficial uses of area groundwaters include:
 - a. domestic water supply
 - b. agricultural water supply
 - c. industrial service supply
8. Permitting of Garberville Sanitary District is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (at Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) under the existing facilities exemption (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15301).

9. The Regional Water Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments and recommendations.
10. The Regional Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.
11. The permitted discharge is consistent with the provisions of State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Resolution No. 68-16, Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California. The impact on existing water quality will be insignificant.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Waste Discharge Requirements set forth in Order No. 88-126 are rescinded and the discharger, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code (CWC) and regulations adopted thereunder, shall upon issuance of this Order comply with the following:

A. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

1. The discharge of any waste not specifically regulated by this Order is prohibited.
2. Creation of a pollution, contamination or nuisance, as these terms are defined in Section 13050 of the California Water Code, is prohibited. Discharge of sewage or other waste, or the effluent of treated sewage or other waste, in a manner which will result in pollution, contamination or nuisance is similarly prohibited pursuant to Health and Safety Code, Section 5411.
3. The discharge of waste to land that is not under the control of the discharger is prohibited.
4. The discharge of untreated waste from anywhere within the collection, treatment, or disposal facility is prohibited.
5. The discharge of waste from the Garberville POTW to the South Fork of the Eel River is prohibited.
6. The discharge of sludge or digester supernatant is prohibited.

B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

1. Representative samples of the discharge to the percolation ponds shall not contain constituents in excess of the following limits:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Monthly Average^a</u>		<u>Daily Maximum^b</u>
BOD (20° C, 5-day)	mg/l	50		80
Suspended Solids	mg/l	50		80
Settleable Solids	ml/l	0.1	---	0.2
Coliform Organisms (Total)	MPN/100 ml	23 ^c	---	230
Hydrogen Ion	pH	Not less than 6 nor greater than 9		

^a The arithmetic mean of all samples collected in a calendar month

^b The maximum sample of all samples collected in a calendar day

^c median

2. The mean daily dry weather flow of waste shall not exceed 60,000 gpd averaged over a calendar month.
3. The discharger shall maintain at least two feet of freeboard in the effluent pond.

C. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Collected screenings, sludges, and other solids removed from liquid wastes shall be disposed of at a legal point of disposal and in accordance with the State Water Board promulgated provisions of Title 27, Division 2, of the California Code of Regulations
2. A copy of this Order shall be maintained at the POTW and be available at all times to operating personnel.

3. The discharger shall commence, within six months after adoption of this Order, to submit a report every six months describing progress towards completion of the pipeline stream crossing described in Finding 4.

4. Severability

Each of the waste discharge requirements set forth in this Order is severable. If any provision of these requirements is found to be invalid, the remainder of these requirements shall not be affected.

5. Operation and Maintenance

The discharger shall maintain in good working order and operate as efficiently as possible any facility or control system installed by the discharger to achieve compliance with the waste discharge requirements set forth herein.

6. Change in Discharge

The discharger shall promptly report to the Regional Water Board any material change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge.

7. Change in Ownership

In the event of any change in control or ownership of land or waste discharge facilities presently owned or controlled by the discharger, the discharger shall notify the succeeding owner or operator of the following items by letter, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Regional Water Board:

- a. existence of this Order, and
- b. the status of the discharger's annual fee account

8. Vested Rights

This Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges. The requirements prescribed herein do not authorize the commission of any act causing injury to persons or property, nor protect the discharger from his liability under federal, State, or local laws, nor create a vested right for the discharger to continue the waste discharge.

9. Monitoring

The discharger shall comply with the Contingency Planning and Notification Requirements Order No. 74-151 and the Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R1-2000-## and any modifications to these documents as specified by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer.

Such documents are attached to this Order and incorporated herein. Chemical, bacteriological, and bioassay analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Department of Health Services.

10. Inspections

The discharger shall permit authorized staff of the Regional Water Board:

- a. entry upon the premises in which an effluent source is located or in which any required records are kept;
- b. access to copy any records required to be kept under terms and conditions of this Order;
- c. inspection of monitoring equipment or records; and
- d. sampling of any discharge.

11. Noncompliance

In the event the discharger is unable to comply with any of the conditions of this Order due to:

- a. breakdown of waste treatment equipment,
- b. accidents caused by human error or negligence or
- c. other causes such as acts of nature,

the discharger shall notify the Regional Water Board Executive Officer by telephone as soon as he or his agents have knowledge of the incident and confirm this notification in writing within two weeks of the telephone notification. The written notification shall include pertinent information explaining reasons for the noncompliance and shall indicate the steps taken to correct the problem and the dates thereof, and the steps being taken to prevent the problem from recurring.

12. Revision of Requirements

This Regional Water Board requires the discharger to file a report of waste discharge at least 120 days before making any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge.

13. Operator Certification

Supervisors and operators of municipal wastewater treatment plants shall possess a certificate of appropriate grade in accordance with Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3680. The State Water Board may accept experience in lieu of qualification training. In lieu of a properly certified wastewater treatment plant operator, the State Water Board may approve use of a water treatment plant operator of appropriate grade certified by the State Department of Health Services where water reclamation is involved.

14. Adequate Capacity

Whenever a publicly owned wastewater treatment plant will reach capacity within four years, the discharger shall notify the Regional Water Board. A copy of such notification shall be sent to appropriate local elected officials, local permitting agencies, and the press. The discharger shall demonstrate that adequate steps are being taken to address the capacity problem. The discharger shall submit a technical report to the Regional Water Board showing how flow volumes will be prevented from exceeding capacity or how capacity will be increased within 120 days after providing notification to the Regional Water Board. The time for filing the required technical report may be extended by the Regional Water Board. An extension of 30 days may be granted by the Regional Water Board Executive Officer, and longer extensions may be granted by the Regional Water Board itself.

Certification

I, Lee A. Michlin, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on August 25, 2000.

Lee A. Michlin
Executive Officer